

been already counted, which images are displayed on the management display 53A or 53B.

If the inventory employee found an expired commodity in the images of the object commodities, which images are displayed on the management display 53A or 53B, the inventory employee indicates the image of the expired commodity by cursor and performs a predetermined operation (e.g., double-clicks) on the image with the mouse 54A or 54B to label the image of the expired commodity with a cross-shaped predetermined special mark M2 that is different from the predetermined mark M1. As a result, labeling the image of an expired commodity with the predetermined special mark M2 helps the inventory employee to clarify the expired commodity, which image is displayed on the management display 53A or 53B. The commodity of which the image is labeled with the predetermined special mark M2 should by no means be limited to an expired commodity, however, and may be a particular commodity other than an expired commodity.

As mentioned above, because an inventory employee can precisely count the object commodity to be inventoried with reference to the predetermined marks M1 with which images of the object commodities are labeled on the management display 53A or 53B. Further, the marked images are

automatically counted so that the counting of the object commodity is precisely performed.

Since a particular commodity, such as an expired commodity, labeled with the predetermined special mark M2, it is possible for an inventory employee to discriminate the particular commodity from commodities other than the particular commodity, by referring to images of the particular commodity and the other commodities, which images are displayed on the management display 53A or 53B.

When the inventory computer 50A or 50B transmits the marked image, in which an image of a particular commodity is labeled with the predetermined special mark M2, to the clerk computer 10B disposed at the shop, an inventory employee that operates the inventory computer 50A or 50B issues minimum and proper instructions (e.g., removing an expired commodity) to a clerk at the shop, realizing a further effective inventory system with reduced costs.

If the mobile information terminal 50C is equipped with the pointing device 54, the marker 55, and the counter 56, the mobile information terminal 50C guarantees the same advantageous results as those of the inventory computer 50A and 50B.

(B) Others:

Further, the present invention should by no means be limited to this foregoing embodiment, and various changes or modifications may be suggested without departing from the gist of the invention.

5           In the first embodiment, the in-shop terminal 10 (the control computer 10A and the clerk computer 10B) is communicably connected to the remote management apparatus 50 (the inventory computers 50A and 50B, and the mobile information terminal 50C) via the LAN 40 and the telephone line 60. As an alternative, the in-shop terminal 10 and the remote management apparatus 50 may be communicably connected via a network, such as Internet, Intranet, or a dedicated communication line.

10           Still further, the mice 54A and 54B are used as the pointing device 54 in the first embodiment. However, the pointing device 54 should by no means be limited to a mouse. As an alternative, the pointing device 54 may be a track ball, a track pad, a tablet, a pen device (a stylus pen), or a joy stick.